



**COUNCIL OF  
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

**Brussels, 10 January 2012**

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**"I/A" ITEM NOTE**

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from:	Working Party on Structural Measures
to:	Permanent Representatives Committee (part II) / Council
No. prev. doc.:	15928/11 FIN 774 FSTR 62 REGIO 104 TELECOM 149
Subject:	Council conclusions on Special Report No 9/2011 by the European Court of Auditors concerning the effectiveness of e-Government projects co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund

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1. On 25 October 2011, the Council received the Special Report No 9/2011 by the European Court of Auditors concerning the effectiveness of e-Government projects co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund<sup>1</sup>, adopted by the Court of Auditors at its meeting on 13 July 2011.
2. Pursuant to the rules laid down in the Council conclusions on improving the examination of special reports drawn up by the Court of Auditors<sup>2</sup>, the Permanent Representatives Committee (Part II) at its meeting on 10 November 2011 instructed the Working Party on Structural Measures to examine this report according to the rules laid down in the abovementioned conclusions.

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<sup>1</sup> Doc. 15928/11 FIN 774 FSTR 62 REGIO 104 TELECOM 149.

<sup>2</sup> Doc. 7515/00 FIN 127 + COR 1.

3. The Working Party on Structural Measures has examined the Special Report and reached an agreement on draft Council conclusions upon an informal silence procedure on 10 January 2012.
  4. The Permanent Representatives Committee is therefore invited to recommend to the Council to adopt, as an "A" item, these draft Council conclusions as set out in the Annex.
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**Draft Council conclusions on Special Report No 9/2011 by the European Court of Auditors  
concerning the effectiveness of e-Government projects co-financed by  
the European Regional Development Fund**

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

- (1) RECALLING the close link between the deployment and usage of e-Government services in Member States as outlined in the initiative "A Digital Agenda for Europe"<sup>1</sup> and the promotion of smart, sustainable and inclusive growth for the European Union;
- (2) NOTING that during the 2000-2006 programming period EUR 6,7 billion from the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) were allocated for the Information Society;
- (3) RECALLING that the deployment of e-Government services remains eligible under the ERDF in the current programming period;
- (4) RECALLING the European Commission's (hereinafter "the Commission") aim to strengthen the focus on results and the effectiveness of cohesion spending by tying cohesion policy more systematically to the Europe 2020 objectives<sup>2</sup>;
- (5) WELCOMES Special Report No. 9/2011 of the European Court of Auditors (hereinafter referred to as "the Court") on the effectiveness of e-Government projects co-financed by the ERDF, and TAKES NOTE of its recommendations as well as the reply from the Commission;

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<sup>1</sup> Communication from the Commission: Europe 2020: a Strategy for Smart, Sustainable and Inclusive Growth, COM (2010) 2020 final of 3 March 2010.

<sup>2</sup> Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions: A Budget for Europe 2020, COM (2011) 500 final of 29 June 2011.

- (6) NOTES, however, that the Report reflects the situation in 2000-2006, and CONSIDERS that the Court's main recommendations have already been taken into account by the Commission and Member States in preparation for similar actions during the current programming period;
- (7) WELCOMES with satisfaction the Court's positive assessment of the e-Government projects' contribution to the development of electronic public services, while RECOGNISING that, although the majority of projects are technically operational, insufficient focus on project results during implementation has meant that the benefits obtained were lower than expected;
- (8) ENCOURAGES the Member States, where appropriate, to continue implementing e-Government projects co-financed by the European Union or by their own resources with a reinforced focus on results and realising user benefits, while ensuring open, flexible and collaborative e-Government services at local, regional, national and European levels and in particular ensuring that project promoters take into consideration the EU principles and recommendations enabling trans-European interoperability.<sup>1</sup>
- (9) ENCOURAGES the Commission and Member States to continue monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of e-Government projects in the current programming period with a view to preparing and optimising the operational programmes for the next programming period, starting in 2014;
- (10) ENCOURAGES the Court to continue its thorough examination of programmes and projects financed under the cohesion policy and to contribute with its recommendations to designing this policy to become even more efficient and result-oriented in the next programming period, starting in 2014.

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<sup>1</sup> Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions: The European eGovernment Action Plan 2011-2015, COM (2010) 743 of 15 December 2010